



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***Risk Watch®* Program To Be Implemented in Four North Dakota Schools**

BISMARCK, N.D. – This fall, four additional North Dakota schools will implement the *Risk Watch®* Champion Program, according to Michele Vietz, Emergency Medical Services for Children program manager with the North Dakota Department of Health.

The four North Dakota schools implementing the program this year are Ashley Public School, Ashley, N.D.; Oakes Public School, Oakes, N.D.; Steele-Dawson Public School, Steele, N.D.; and Wilton Public School, Wilton, N.D. During the 2005-2006 school year, a total of nine elementary schools in North Dakota will include *Risk Watch®* in their curricula.

Developed by the National Fire Protection Association, the *Risk Watch®* Champion Program focuses on reducing unintentional childhood death and injuries by giving teachers, parents and safety advocates the tools to teach children how to make positive choices every day and to prepare them for unexpected events. *Risk Watch®* teaches children how to recognize and avoid unintentional injuries, the number one killer of children 14 and younger in the United States.

The *Risk Watch®* Program trains Champion Team members from each of the North Dakota schools to serve as education resources for classroom teachers in implementing the curriculum during the 2005-2006 school year. Educational topics include falls prevention, fire and burn prevention, firearms injury prevention, water injury prevention, and bike and pedestrian safety. This year's training will take place Aug. 8 and 9 in Bismarck, N.D.

The *Risk Watch®* Champion Program in North Dakota is supported by the North Dakota Department of Health, the North Dakota Firefighters Association, the Bismarck Police Department, and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

For more information, contact Michele Vietz, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2953.

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